

CURRENT CAPITAL TOPICS.

Wonderful Success of the Four Per Cent. Loan.

Two Hundred Thousand More Saved in Annual Interest—Another Call for Bonds—Condition of Mr. Justice—Hunt—The Potter Committee—Not Anxious to Investigate, &c., &c., &c.

Condition of Mr. Justice Hunt.

There was no marked change in Mr. Justice Hunt's condition last night.

The Death of Caleb Cushing.

There will be a meeting of the members of the bar of the Supreme Court of the United States on Friday morning, at eleven o'clock, at the court-room, to take action in relation to the death of the late Caleb Cushing.

The Potter Committee.

It is announced that the Potter committee will reassess to-morrow, when General Butler will be in attendance, and it will begin business again. It is known that a certain very important witness has been offered to this committee, so to speak, but that the majority of the committee are not anxious to take his testimony, which, it is understood, would open up new fields of investigation not of a pleasant or acceptable character to the Democracy.

Architect Hill's Case.

It is understood that the so-called conspiracy trials of Federal officers out in Chicago, in which Supervising Architect Hill, among others, was indicted for alleged irregularities in certain contracts for the erection of the Chicago custom-house, will not be prosecuted to a final result. It appears that the testimony against the accused is so flimsy and unsubstantial that the prosecuting officers have abandoned all idea of getting a conviction in any of the cases. The programme now is to try ex-Architect Potter's case, and his innocence being established, to enter *nolo prosequi* in the others. To this arrangement, Hill's counsel will demand a trial under the indictment against him, for the purpose of getting a legal vindication, which he knows is his due.

The New York Nominations.

It is now very generally believed that the New York custom-house nominations will be confirmed as soon as they are reported to the Senate by the Commerce Committee. It is not certain that this report upon them will be unfavorable, for it appears that Mr. Conkling has about made up his mind that his personal and political dignity requires no further investigation in the present case, in connection with this subject there have been grave hints lately about the possibility of an extra session of the Senate after the 4th of March next, in the event that the custom-house nominations should be confirmed. In these and other nominations is not acceptable to the Administration. These hints, however, seem to be baseless, as there is no evidence in the present case, or in the case of the nomination of a solid front, to the Democracy, instead of consuming time and renewing exploded discussions in the party.

Bonds Called In.

The seventy-ninth call for the redemption of 520 bonds of 1855 was issued yesterday, being the fourth call issued for the redemption of the 1857 series. The call is for \$600,000 coupon and \$4,000,000 registered bonds, interest on which will cease April 8, 1879, when principal and interest are due.

The House Naval Committee.

The House Naval Committee yesterday commenced the hearing of testimony in rebuttal of that heretofore taken by the committee. Yesterday's sessions were devoted to hearing witnesses to refute the charge of ex-Chief Engineer King that Mr. Wood had adopted an obsolete style of boiler. The testimony of sundry experts was to the effect that the water-leg-boilers, characterized as obsolete, were preferable to the ordinary kind, although Engineers-in-Chief Shattuck stated that he preferred the water bottom boiler in vessels built of wood. It was, however, said, an honest difference of opinion between engineers as to which was the better. Some witnesses called by ex-Secretary Tolson were to be examined to-day.

The Legislative Appropriation Bill.

The sub-committee of the House Committee on Appropriations yesterday considered and revised the legislative, judicial, and executive appropriation bill. The bill may not be reported to the House until next week. The principal feature of new legislation will be with regard to the consolidation of the various classes of surveys under one general head, instead of being divided, as now, under several agencies.

DEATH OF HON. JULIAN HARRIDGE.

Arrangements for the obsequies at the Capitol. Hon. Julian Hartridge, Representative in Congress from the first district of Georgia, died yesterday morning at half past six o'clock. He had been lying ill of pneumonia at his home, No. 715 Eleventh street northwest, since last Saturday. He was conscious up to the time of his death, and some members of the Georgia delegation were with him nearly all the time during his illness. As he appeared to be sinking rapidly last Tuesday a dispatch was sent his wife, summoning her to this city. Arrangements have been made to send the body South this evening, another dispatch was sent yesterday to interested parties at Wilmington, N. C., where they will join the funeral party. Mr. Hartridge, who was about forty years of age, was born in Savannah, Ga. He studied law at Cambridge, Mass., and was very successful in the practice of his profession. He was at different times Solicitor-General of the eastern judicial circuit of Georgia, member of the Georgia Legislature, delegate to the Charleston Democratic convention in 1860, an officer in the Confederate army, a member of the Confederate Congress, chairman of the Georgia Democratic Executive Committee, delegate to the national Democratic convention of 1872, and an elector for the State at large on the Democratic ticket. He was elected to the Forty-fifth Congress as a Democrat. He was one of the most active workers and most popular members on his side of the House. Political life was becoming distasteful both to himself and family, and they were looking forward with joyful expectations to the expiration of his present term in Congress, when Mr. Hartridge had determined

LOUISIANA OUTRAGES.

Additional Testimony Before the Teller Committee.

The Committee Confronted with Wounds and Scars that Cannot Lie—Details of the Tensas Massacre—Deliberate and Cold-Blooded Murders—Politics Openly Avowed as the Sole Cause.

Civilization Disgraced.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 8.—At the meeting of the Teller committee today J. N. McGill, of Texas, was recalled and testified concerning the armed bands from other parishes and Mississippi; heard a great many things, but knows the reports were greatly exaggerated; in fact, if you inquire rightly into many of the stories you will find not a word of truth in them. Armed bands did some things which I could not approve. They threatened Bland and Douglas with an attack. I heard the leader of the militia (Captain Cain) say "The white man shall rule." There is a hostility between the negro and white man. I won't try to disguise this fact. Show me a negro who voted the Democratic ticket and I will show you a hypocrite or a fool.

Fleming Branch (colored), of Tensas, was at Fairfax's house October 12 when Captain Peck's party came there. He said that he had been there, but claimed that he did not stay very late. Witness said to Kate: "I hope you won't think me malicious for repeating the report that she did not stay, but if people were to talk about her, she would give them something to talk about. Witness had been told by Kate about several things which she had heard from Charles Tracy, for some time a fellow workman of Cobb's, testified that Cobb's head began to fall out at least three years ago. A recess was then taken till two o'clock p. m.

THE COBB MURDER TRIAL.

Mrs. Cobb's Confession While Perpetrating Her Crime.

NEW ORLEANS, Jan. 8.—The Cobb trial was resumed this morning. Several witnesses testified to seeing Mrs. Cobb and Bishop together on the streets at the times referred to in Bishop's evidence. Mrs. Charles H. Cobb, mother of the deceased, testified to his good health up to the latter part of February, 1878. Up to that month she had never talked to Kate about her intimacy with Bishop. The day before Charles died he said he didn't believe he could have taken any poison but lead. On cross-examination she said Kate was a good housekeeper, and she was on good terms with her.

THE FIRE RECORD.

Serious Fire in Baltimore.

BALTIMORE, Jan. 8.—The large five-story warehouse, Nos. 347 and 349, on the south side of Baltimore street, between Howard and Eutaw streets, and extending from Baltimore through to German street, with their contents, were almost completely destroyed by fire to-night. The fire broke out in No. 349, just before nine o'clock, and burned furiously for two hours, until a body of fire was sent to the lower floors of 349 by Louis A. & Son, wholesale dealers, and the upper floors by Leonard Passano, dealer in fancy goods and notions. The lower floors of 347 were occupied by D. E. Hyatt, a Co. grocers, and Charles H. and Sons, and the upper floors by Strickland and Todd, book printers. The upper floors of both buildings, which are owned by Chamney, ran, houses, consumed. The loss will reach \$500,000 or \$600,000.

The Late Morton McMichael.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8.—A large meeting of citizens of Philadelphia was held at noon to-day in the common council chamber to take action relative to the death of Hon. Morton McMichael. Mayor Stockley presided and Daniel M. Fox and George A. Baker acted as secretaries. Addresses were made by Hon. Eli K. Price, General Robert Patterson, William D. Lewis, Colonel John W. Farnum, and Daniel Dougherty. Resolutions expressing regret at the loss to the community in the death of Mr. McMichael were adopted, and the meeting adjourned.

The Candidates of Philadelphia will meet to-morrow morning to take appropriate action relative to the death of Hon. Morton McMichael.

The employees of the North American and the first ballot resulted—Cameron, 97; A. M. Brown, of Allegheny, 13; and Senator Everhard, 4. The nomination of Cameron was then made unanimous. Twenty-five Representatives of the Legislature were held at night to nominate a candidate for United States Senator, to fill the place of J. Donald Cameron, whose term expires with the present Congress. The nomination of Cameron was made by the first ballot—Cameron, 97; A. M. Brown, of Allegheny, 13; and Senator Everhard, 4. The nomination of Cameron was then made unanimous.

Bogardus' Wonderful Feast.

NEW YORK, Jan. 8.—Captain Bogardus continued breaking glass balls this evening with wonderful rapidity and aim. He was loudly applauded when he finished breaking 2,000 balls without having made a single miss. He went steadily on, and shattered ball after ball, notwithstanding that his thumb was badly swollen. Shortly after nine o'clock he might be expected to break 3,000 balls in 3,000 shots, not having made a single miss throughout. The feat was loudly cheered, and Bogardus will continue his work to-morrow and succeed in breaking 4,000 balls in 4,000 shots, not having made a single miss throughout.

A Pardon to be Recommended.

GEORGETOWN, Pa., Jan. 8.—Blasius Pistorius, a Catholic priest, was twice convicted of murder in the first degree. The imperial German government conducted his defense through Minister von Scholzer and through Stephen S. Renak, esq., of Philadelphia, as counsel of the German government. To-day Hon. George Lear, Attorney-General of Pennsylvania, in his ward were forced to join the Democratic club, and received there certificates entitling them to protection. Witness testified to other acts of lawlessness.

The Sugar Question.

WASHINGTON, Jan. 8.—The Board of Trade and Transportation today adopted resolutions that the changes in the tariff on sugar pending in Congress should be settled on its merits, and that charges of fraud and adulteration should be investigated and decided independently. It was also resolved that the admission of high-grade sugars of the same duty as low grades would be a serious injury to the sugar planters of the West Indies and the East Indies.

Hunter Makes a Confession.

PHILADELPHIA, Jan. 8.—Sheriff Calhoun, of Camden, was visited to-night by a reporter in reference to the hanging of Benjamin Hunter, on Friday, for the murder of Armstrong. He stated that Hunter had made a private confession, but it would not be published until after the trial of Graham, his accomplice in the murder. He refused positively to make known the contents of the confession, but he said that the confession was made to the State. Hunter is receiving religious consolation, and is visited by no one except members of his family. The preparations for the execution are nearly completed.

Three More Democrats Convicted.

BALTIMORE, N. J., Jan. 8.—The jury in the conspiracy case of ex-Director Stroder, ex-Freelholder Cox, and Contractor Sinker returned a verdict of guilty. The prosecutor next moved an indictment against ex-County Collector Simon A. Cunningham, ex-G. H. Hough, ex-County Attorney John N. Grooms, and ex-Director Stroder, charged with defrauding the county of \$5,218. The court then adjourned until to-morrow morning.

Progress of the Southern Pacific Railroad.

END OF TRACK S. P. R. R. Fifty-seven hundred feet of track laid yesterday. J. H. STROBRIER, Chief of Construction.

STATE LEGISLATURES.

Opening Sessions in a Large Number of the States.

Governor Harrison's Last Annual Message—Finance of the State—Message of Governor Porter, of Tennessee—Compromise with Creditors Recommended—Governor Garcelon Sworn in.

Pennsylvania.

HARRISBURG, Pa., Jan. 8.—Governor Harrison sent his last annual message to the State Legislature to-day. It shows that the estimated deficiency in the general fund at the close of the present fiscal year will be \$4,175,000. The revenues of the general fund for 1878 fell below the revenues of 1877 some \$600,000, and the estimated revenues of 1879 are \$600,000 below the same standard, which will make altogether for the two years in which the deficiencies will have principally accumulated a falling off of the revenues of \$1,200,000. The Governor believes, however, that by a rigid enforcement of the tax laws, spreading the payment of most of the appropriations over two years (1878 and 1879), keeping the expenditures strictly within the estimates, and diverting certain surplus revenues from the sinking fund to the general fund, this deficit can be made up, and the expenses of the next two years can be met without resort to additional taxation.

Taking the two years together, the Governor believes that the revenues will not only be sufficient to meet all expenses, but that about \$1,000,000 of the public debt can be redeemed by the end of 1880, and the State will be able to commence 1881 without a deficit. The State cannot afford to keep up the labor troubles, an average of over \$100,000 annually for the past eight years, while the direct loss to capital and loss of wages to the working classes from strikes in the State has been considerable, amounting to many millions of dollars.

The Governor devotes considerable space to a discussion of the labor question, and recommends his message with the report of a commission, who visited England and recently examined under the seal of this State, to investigate the practical workings and results of the various systems of arbitration in force there. He suggests the publication of this report, which he strongly indorses, especially among the laboring classes.

No reference is made to resumption of its former relations with the country, with a feeling of tribute to the memory of a recently deceased Pennsylvanian, Henry Amet Brown, Bayard Taylor, and Morton McMichael.

Tennessee.

NASHVILLE, TENN., Jan. 8.—Governor Porter's last regular message was delivered to the Legislature this morning. It reports an active business in the State treasury of \$201,009.95, and the current expenses of the government for the last year of \$1,044,114. The tax levied for 1878 was \$2,232,212, and the unpaid tax list of former years, \$493,000. The total value of property assessed for taxation for 1878 shows a decrease from 1877 of \$13,600,000. The outstanding bonded indebtedness of the State is \$2,223,393, and unpaid interest, \$402,717.

The statement of this debt is paramount to all questions of legislation that can change the intention of the Legislature. It involves the honor and good name of the State, and the credit and honor of every citizen. It is a liability contracted, and which, whether wisely or unwisely, cannot now be the question. I hold and have always believed that in the light of moral and legal obligations, the State should not be allowed to pay the debt of a former Legislature, but that it should be paid by the Legislature that created it.

In December, 1877, certain creditors of the State levied a writ of attachment on the State treasury, and the State was forced to pay the debt of a former Legislature. The State is now in a position to pay the debt of a former Legislature, but it is not doing so. The State is now in a position to pay the debt of a former Legislature, but it is not doing so.

Missouri.

ST. LOUIS, MO., Jan. 8.—Both Houses met at Jefferson City to-day. Lieutenant-Governor Buckmaster called the Senate to order, and after electing Daniel Abbott St. Louis, temporary secretary and swearing in new members, an adjournment was taken until to-morrow.

The House elected Samuel Davis temporary speaker, Daniel Boone temporary clerk, and after new members were sworn in, adjourned until to-morrow.

The Chicago Excursionists.

CHICAGO, ILL., Jan. 8.—The Chicago excursionists or American League delegation to Mexico, at a meeting this evening, returned thanks to the Governor, Legislature, mayor and city council, Cotton Exchange, New Orleans Club, and places of amusement for the marked courtesy shown them during their stay in this city.

Florida Oranges Groves Safe.

JACKSONVILLE, FLA., Jan. 8.—Reports from the fruit section show that the orange crop and trees were not damaged by the recent cold snap. The weather has moderated and is now very pleasant here, the thermometer ranging to-day from 65° to 70°.

Fugitives Returned.

HARRISBURG, PA., Jan. 8.—The board has refused to grant the application for commutation of death sentence to imprisonment for life in the cases of John McDowell and Charles Sharpe, Carlton County Molly Maguires. The case of Maria Bergh, the Solwayville County Molly who was reprieved by the Governor on the 14th instant, was not brought before the board.

The Plague in Astrakhan.

ST. PETERSBURG, Jan. 8.—The plague has caused a general panic in Astrakhan and Saratov. A correspondent of the Globe writes that the plague commenced in a village in the district of Elovskoye. Precautions against the disease were at first neglected, as it was mistaken for typhoid. When the weather became warmer people died like flies, and the dead lay unburied in the streets. The infected district has been surrounded by troops. Communication with Moscow has been stopped. General anxiety prevails through Russia. It is supposed the deaths have been more numerous than in any past year.

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THE TERRIBLE PLAGUE PREVAILING IN ASTRAKHAN.

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MORNING NEWS BY CABLE.

The Terrible Plague Prevailing in Astrakhan.

People Dying Like Flies—The Dead Left Unburied—Progress of General Roberts Toward Candahar—Threatening Attitude of the Native Tribes—France Threatening the Bay of Tunis, &c.

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